

THE ARGUS

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Volume 128 | Issue 13

www.iwuargus.com | instagram: @iwuargus

FEBRUARY 11, 2022

Late administrative response to Rainbow Floor vandalism incidents leaves students dissatisfied



FARAH BASSYOUNI
STAFF WRITER

This article has been updated from its original online publishing on February 4.

The "Rainbow Floor," on the first floor of IWU's Pfeiffer Hall, is meant to be a safe space for IWU students who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community. But when Pfeiffer and Rainbow Floor students received what many students believe to be an overdue email this week about vandalism on the floor, that opinion shifted.

The email, sent by the Office of Residential Life (ORL) on January 27, addressed what the administration called "incidents" on the Rainbow Floor. The email stated that said incidents "would not be tolerated and asked for information on who has been taking down the Pride flags on the Rainbow Floor over the past few months."

According to Rainbow Floor RA Rory Sloan, the first incident occurred on October 9 after midnight. They received noise complaints regarding a group of four to five white males drunkenly running down the hallway, body slamming into the door of one of the Rainbow Floor residents, and tipping over the trash cans. Sloan left their room to report the com-

plaints, only to find that one of the Pride flags just outside their door had been torn down.

Sloan suspected the same group that had been disrupting the floor tore down the flags. Camera footage showed the same group walking upstairs with traffic cones in their hands and passing the turned over trash cans at the exact minute the Pride flag was torn down. The reviewed card swipes also aligned with the suspects.

"It was the same guys I had written up for a mask violation," Sloan said.

Two weeks later, on October 15, more noise complaints were lodged by residents and another flag was seen torn down.

"This time, the cloth was ripped and it was clearly by force," Sloan said. "Someone had yanked it down."

Most recently, on January 15, Sloan said that one of the flags that had just been repaired disappeared. They heard banging noises from upstairs, where the suspected vandals are thought to reside.

"There were noise complaints of yelling, stomping and slurs being yelled," Sloan said.

The next morning, the flags turned up in the communal lounge of the 3rd floor.

Shortly after, Campus Safety

switched the motion-sensored cameras to recording 24/7 and informed the RAs that they would alter the patrol routes so that they passed through and around Pfeiffer more often for the next week.

"We had as much proof as we could get in a residence hall. The assistant directors felt as though there was a lot hindering them from being done, but I don't know what. If they could get enough proof, they could get kicked out of Pfeiffer. Yet, they're still here," Sloan said.

"They've been at it for over a full semester. It's ridiculous that I'm paying to live here and I don't feel safe in my room," first-year Connie Kim said.

The email from ORL came at a time when the residents, particularly the Pride Alliance who had recently filled out a bias report, had been fighting for a stronger institutional response.

When asked about the university's delayed response, Dean Karla said there wasn't one in terms of investigation.

"Where I have regret is that we didn't communicate fully, letting

the community know that action was being taken," Carney-Hall said.

Dean of Students for Inclusion and Awareness Prince Robertson said, "There was a thorough investigation done [in October], as right now." He said that they had an immediate reaction that was just not communicated to students.

For some students, that's not good enough.

"When I filled out the bias report, it redirected me to the one that was filed in October by Rory, the RA. But like, it's January and nothing has happened. The school likes to be hush hush about these things. I probably would not have known about it had I not been on Pride Exec," Jasmyne Taylor, a student member of the Pride Executive Team.

Nina DeBoni, another member of the Pride Executive Team and a resident of the Rainbow Floor, said the school needs to treat it with the importance that a hate crime demands.

"That's what hurts the most—not to mention, the damaging effect that it has on everyone's men-

tal health here," DeBoni said.

When told this, Deans Robertson and Carney-Hall didn't seem opposed to calling it a hate crime.

There was a recognition of this being a "hate-charged incident", and a validation of their failure to communicate their handling of the situation to the students. However, there was hesitancy to associate it with criminal activity as of right now, since they are still gathering evidence.

According to the Illinois General Assembly, a person commits a hate crime when "regardless of the existence of any other motivating factors...he or she commits intimidation...misdemeanor theft...misdemeanor criminal damage to property...disorderly conduct...transmission of obscene messages."

Additionally, in agreement with Illinois state law, the hate crime is considered a Class 2 felony when it's repeated "in a school or other educational facility."

"It's unacceptable. We want our Rainbow Floor and students to know that we support them," Carney-Hall said.

MORE INCIDENTS, MORE EMAILS—

On the afternoon of Tuesday, February 8, the campus community received an email from the administration reporting that the Dean of Students office was "notified of a hate incident where a male person yelled threats and a homophobic slur on first floor Pfeiffer (the Rainbow Floor)".

The latest incident and this first campus-wide email came just four days after *The Argus* published a story about the Rainbow Floor incidents ("IWU's response to Rainbow Floor vandalism leaves residents dissatisfied").

RA Rory Sloan described the latest floor disruption as a male person who yelled "Everyone safe in their rooms? F---g f---ts".

Sloan also confirmed that the person in question has been moved out of Pfeiffer and into the IWU guesthouse.

In addition to the repeated vandalism and theft of the flags, the usage of the slur falls under disorderly conduct, intimidation and

transmission of obscene messages in an educational facility, which constitutes as a Class 2 felony in the state of Illinois.

Additionally, the email noted IWU has enhanced Campus Safety presence, explored additional security cameras, ordered replacement flags for those that were damaged and worked collaboratively to address concerns.

"We all have a role to play in addressing bias on our campus," Carney-Hall said in the email.

Just a day later, on Wednesday, February 9, another school-wide email was sent stating that while the university "cannot share the outcome of the investigation due to confidentiality, we can share that the disruption on inclusivity has been addressed in accordance with our student code of conduct."

Moving forward, Pride Exec member and resident of the Rainbow Floor Nina DeBoni said that Pride has "contacted multiple departments about showing support, to which there was enthusiastic response, and Pride will be hanging up flags in CLA".

DeBoni also said that Pride is planning a de-stressing activity for Rainbow Floor residents to further show support for the LGBTQ+ student body.

However, there seems to still be dissatisfaction with the university's response, especially in regards to withholding the person's identity and the consequences they'll be facing.

"I'm glad that the individual has been removed from Pfeiffer, however that is only a measure of securing our safety" DeBoni said.

DeBoni said that while the University does not have to comment on the punishment, but that they believe that there should be a certain level of communication that clarifies how the individual is being taught about the wrongness of their actions.

"I want them to be able to learn from it, because just removing them kills any educational opportunity for awareness of homophobia at IWU," DeBoni said.

NEWS BRIEFS

COMING TO THE IWU STUDENT BODY

Virtual Career Fest

Friday, February 11, 10 AM - 2 PM

Employers from a variety of different organizations and industries will participate in this annual career fair featuring both internship and entry level opportunities. Hosted by the College Career Consortium of Illinois (CCCI), of which IWU is one of 18 member schools. The fair will be a virtual event this year. Advance registration is required.

Valentine's and Galentine's Card-Making Event

Friday, February 11, 1 PM - 2 PM

Kemp Hall

Sponsored by the Josephine Mabel Jackson Affinity Housing in Kemp, students can select Valentine's or "Galentine's" cards for their loved ones. There will also be cookies available for decorating (while supplies last). The event is free and open to all IWU students.

Black History Forum

Friday, February 11, 3 PM - 4 PM

Turfler Room, Memorial Center

Sponsored by the Black Student Union (BSU), Professor Kayode "Ky" Ajayi will be presenting an educational talk with student Jack McElveen called "Can There be Reconciliation Without Truth?" addressing topics such as reparations, falsifying of history, and systemic racism. This event is free and open to the public.

CAB brings puppies on campus
Friday, February 11, 5 PM - 7 PM

PM

Hansen Student Center

Campus Activities Board (CAB) is bringing puppies to campus. Students are invited to spend some time petting and playing with dogs to help ease some of their mid-semester anxieties.

Douglass Day Transcribe-a-Thon

Monday, February 14, 11 AM - 2 PM

105B in Ames Library

The Writing Center | Tutoring Services will celebrate its third annual Douglass Day. All IWU students, alumni, staff, faculty, and BloNo community members are invited to work on transcribing, taking from written or typed form into electronic form, the work of Frederick Douglass's contemporaries. This year, the WCTS is specifically looking at a variety of Black activists from the nineteenth century. They plan to serve birthday cake and help with the transcriptions. No prior knowledge of how to transcribe is necessary. Email ascanlon@iwu.edu with questions.

Ryan Woodall presentation on language learning

Friday, February 18, 4 PM - 5 PM

CLA 305

The Language Resource Center will host alum Ryan Woodall, an adjunct professor and multilingual speaker. He plans to present on his language learning trajectory, travels, and career path. The event will be in Spanish and food will be provided.

IWU announces spring COVID protocols

THIA HEILMAN
MANAGING EDITOR

As students settle into the spring semester, Titans are navigating the Omicron variant.

On campus, Arnold Health Services reported 17 active positive cases between January 28 and February 3.

On February 4, IWU updated isolation and quarantine protocols for on-campus students and planned to make them effective Monday, February 7.

The new protocols are concerned with the shorter isolation periods recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

These new guidelines and protocols give students clarifications on how that impacts their interactions with the rest of the campus if exposed, or if they are positive.

According to the new guidelines, students who test positive for COVID-19 will be isolated off-campus for five days, and the five days begin immediately after test results are known.

Students may be expected to test on Day 6, depending on Arnold Health Services' assessment.

Students must be cleared by Arnold Health Services before arranging transportation back to campus or returning to campus.

Students are allowed to return to in-person classes and activities after their sixth day if they wear high-quality masks, such as N95s and KN95s.

If a student has been identified as a close contact, the new protocols clarify what the student should do next based on vaccination status.

If a close contact is fully

vaccinated, they are not required to quarantine but it is recommended to get tested five days after exposure. Unvaccinated students, regardless of symptoms, should be quarantined for five days and a negative PCR test must be obtained before leaving isolation.

In McLean County, the rolling seven-day positivity rate was 9.5 percent as of February 8.

The county has experienced high community transmission during January. The McLean County Health Department (MCHD) reported 119 new cases this week, with 100 percent of hospital rates within the county in-use.

Both McLean County and Illinois Wesleyan recommend, due to the high infection of the omicron variant, that anyone exposed get tested five to seven days after exposure.

SECURITY BEAT

All reports included in *The Argus's* "Security Beat" are provided by Campus Safety

2/3/2022 at 2:15 AM, MC HOUSE

Campus Safety conducted an investigation of an unsecured building.

2/3/2022 at 4:11 AM, Ferguson Hall

Campus Safety was asked to conduct a student welfare check.

2/3/2022 at 1:20 PM, Munsell Hall

A fire alarm activation due to smoke generated by a loose belt on a washing machine - there was no fire.

2/4/2022 at 1:35 PM, Kappa Delta Sorority House

Campus Safety fulfilled a request to jump start a vehicle.

2/4/2022 at 2:35 PM, Ferguson Hall

Campus Safety was called to investigate the odor of marijuana on the second floor.

2/4/2022 at 4:10 PM, Ames Library

Campus Safety was called after a report of an injury from a fall.

2/5/2022 at 12:55 AM, Ferguson Hall

There was a call to investigate the odor of marijuana on the seventh floor. While there, Campus Safety confiscated a THC vape pen and also a bottle of hard alcohol.

2/5/2022 at 12:00 PM, Ferguson Hall

There was an unauthorized individual inside a residence hall. Contact was made and the individual was escorted off of campus by Campus Safety.

2/6/2022 at 1:30 PM, Munsell Hall

There was a report of a student transported to a hospital for a non-emergency call by the fire department.

newswriters needed

do you want
experience
writing for a
newspaper?

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be the one to
break our next
big story?

do you want to
get paid?

email:

sheilman@iwu.edu

for more info

How Monischa Hills reminded IWU to "Say Her Name"



Photo by Mj Soria

RACHEL WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

Breonna Taylor's death in March of 2020 was met with global frustration. Her wrongful death inspired millions around the nation, and the world, to advocate for Black lives and speak out against police brutality.

Today, you might see her face painted on sides of buildings or even on a basketball court in Annapolis, Maryland. Taylor's death was one of many pivotal moments for Black Lives Matter in 2020, but her story is not unique.

In 2020, The Washington Post reported that 250 Black women have been fatally shot by police since 2015, and yet, Black women killed at the hands of police often seem to be an afterthought. Their stories are not nearly as wide-

spread and known as their male counterparts.

This disparity in awareness and commemoration is something that Janelle Monae attempted to combat in her 2021 song "Say Her Name." When senior nursing major Monischa Hills first heard the song, they were instantly inspired. They remembered thinking "Oh my gosh, I want to put together something for that," and they instantly got to work.

During the 17 minute song, Monae, and other featured artists and leaders, chant the names of 50 Black women and girls who have been killed. The chorus pleads listeners to do just as the title suggests: "say her name."

After hearing the song, it took Hills about two weeks to assemble a poster describing the song and many more with photos of the

fallen women. Hills wanted students to see the faces of the Black women too often forgotten, and "put the QR code on the poster so people can learn more about their stories."

Hills displayed their work in the hallway leading up to Dugout. It hung there for the remainder of the fall semester. They also posted the project on Facebook and Instagram to reach larger crowds online, not just IWU students.

When asked why Hills made such a great effort to put this together, Hills said that they wanted people to know and be reminded that Black women are also being killed.

Hills noted that chants of Black Lives Matter are usually in response to deaths of Black men and that "a lot of times Black women and girls, and especially trans women, are forgotten."

After all, Hills recounted, "women are behind these movements. The Black Lives Matter movement was literally created by two women. They're the founders of the organization."

As people walked into Dugout, they were deeply impacted by the display Hills set up.

They recall both students and staff approaching them to say, "Mo, I've seen your display and I was so moved by it." Hills said that though many people didn't have time to read everything at the time, they'd go back and read more later.

Hills was surprised by the number of inspired people who approached them. They were even approached by the local newspaper, The Pantagraph.

"So now even more people have read about it, which is great

because I want more people to see the work that's being done; not because it's my work, but because it's something that needs to be seen. We need to humanize these people."

Hills's agency and initiative is no surprise to those who have heard of them on campus. Hills is a very active leader, whose activities include serving as President of Amnesty International, Social Media Chair for Black Student Union, and Pride Alliance.

Hills has been an outspoken advocate for change on campus throughout their years.

Currently, they are working alongside others to create a Multicultural Center that might provide students of color a safe space to find community. Hills explained that "currently the only safe space is unofficially ODI [Office of Diversity and Inclusion]. BSU is working on a Multicultural Center so that people of different ethnicities can just be there and feel safe and have resources."

They feel the project is incredibly important to the IWU community and could have a great impact

on students of color.

They said that "creating safe spaces should be a priority on campus because a lot of students I talk to feel unwelcome here for many different reasons."

In September of 2020, the Instagram account @bipocatiwu was created to give IWU students, faculty and staff a place to speak about their experiences at IWU as people of color.

In April 2021, posts from the account were displayed on the quad. One of the posters told any passerby that people of color on campus were tired of acting as IWU's advertisement.

Hills echoed the posters' sentiment and said that IWU should work on "having more people who look like us, and not just for numbers."

Facing graduation in May, Hills says they want to be remembered as someone who tried to enact change and wasn't afraid to speak out. Hills's advice to students is indicative of their legacy to be left at Wesleyan: "be bold."



Photo from Monischa Hills

Heartfelt horoscopes to get you through Valentine's Day

ARGUS STAFF

Aries (March 21st – April 19th):

This Valentine's Day you need to take the day to yourself. Make yourself homemade pasta, buy yourself flowers and light a candle.

Being alone does not translate to being sad. Watch your comfort tv show because you deserve it.

Taurus (April 20th – May 20th):

Buy a new outfit and take yourself out to dinner. New clothes and a good meal has so much potential to boost your mood and make for a perfect evening.

Ending the night with your favorite movie in your comfiest clothes, sounds ideal.

Gemini (May 21st – June 20th):

Are you surprised you are single again this Valentine's Day? I

sure hope not. Maybe try not to be controlling and then a long term relationship could be in your future.

Honestly probably not, but do you even want a committed relationship?

Cancer (June 21st – July 22nd):

Just wait. This is your last valentine-less Valentine's Day. Your dream of a partner is coming your way. Instead of being upset, maybe get ready for the best relationship of your life?

Buying a journal and setting your intentions for this new relationship, sounds like a perfect night.

Leo (July 23rd – August 22nd):

This Valentine's Day is just like every other one. Go out to dinner alone and just do your thing.

Being dependent on someone is so exhausting anyway and you have grown enough to realize that.

Virgo (August 23rd – September 22nd):

We get it you are single again this year. Talking about being alone will not make you any less alone.

If you focused half of your energy on yourself instead of boring everyone else, maybe you wouldn't be alone.

Libra (September 23rd – October 22nd):

We cannot lie, everyone loves you and your partner. You two are a great couple and everyone is literally begging you to see some of your relationship content on our Instagram feeds this V-Day.

Scorpio (October 23rd – November 21st):

Honestly, it is fine you do not have a partner this Valentine's Day. At least you can sleep well at night knowing that everyone is secretly obsessed with you.

And isn't that better? No one to depend on and no one you have to

constantly check in with.

Sagittarius (November 22nd – December 21st):

We get it you have a significant other, you do not need to post about it again. Especially on Valentine's Day.

I can absolutely promise you, no one wants to see it. Do not be surprised if you start losing Instagram followers because of the way you post.

Capricorn (December 22nd – January 19th):

Being in a committed relationship is fun, but when was the last time you were actually happy?

I think this Valentine's Day is a perfect time to actually analyze yourself and truly think about what you want.

Aquarius (January 20th – February 18th):

Before you tell everyone about your partner, just know you are not actually a power couple. We

hate to be the one to break this to you but your insignificant relationship probably will not last. Get ahead of the curve and just call it off now.

Pisces (February 19th – March 20th):

It is okay that your plans have abruptly changed. That happens to the best of us.

Everyone has to hit rock bottom before things can get better. This time alone could be just what you need.

We need more student writers! Inquire about the features section at swatts@iwu.edu

Lose yourself in a book, film or song this Valentine's Day

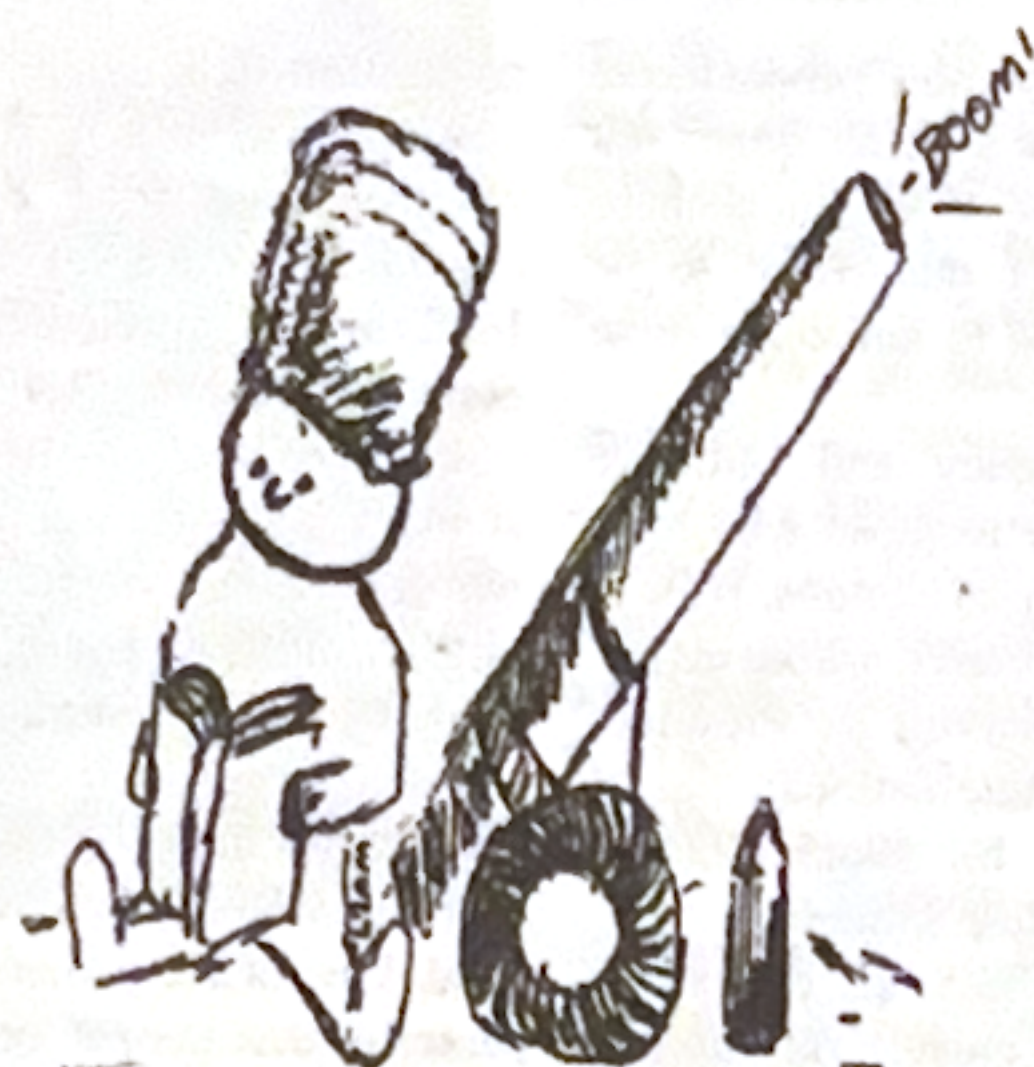


Image by: Liam Killian

ALESSIA GIRADIN
NEWS EDITOR

This Valentine's season, if you are not celebrating with a special someone, you should take this opportunity to immerse yourself in some romantic literature, films or music. IWU faculty from the English Department and School of Music have recommendations for some content you should dive into.

Professor Wes Chapman, of IWU's English department, has some optional out-of-class reading if you admire classical literature, especially heartfelt romantic books. Professor Chapman selected Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* for a taste of Romanticism and Gothic fiction in a "classical doomed romance." If you're looking for something dramatic this holiday, some of the promi-

nent themes in the novel are love, morality, childhood, money and class. Published in December 1847, the novel follows the Earnshaws and the Lintons in West Yorkshire and their turbulent relationships with Earnshaw's adopted son, Heathcliff. There's also a film adaptation made in 1992 directed by Peter Kosminsky for non-readers.

But the best novel Professor Chapman has ever read about "hopeless, life-changing passion" is Jeanette Winterson's *The Passion*. This novel illustrates the life of a French soldier in the Napoleonic army during 1805 as he takes charge of Napoleon's personal larder. It is a historiographic metafiction novel published in 1987 that explores themes of passion, constructions of gender and sexuality, and broader themes common to 1980s and 90s British fiction.

Another professor from the English department, professor James Plath has a "romantically tragic" novel recommendation for students to read: Boris Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago*. The novel is set in Russia during World War I and the Russian Civil War. The novel has themes of loneliness, fate and circumstances, philosophy of human nature and passion. Yuri Zhivago is a married physician and poet whose life is altered by the war and falls madly in love with Lara Antipova who becomes a nurse in the war. This novel was published in 1957, but was banned in the Soviet Union for decades. The later film adaptation in 1965 directed by David Lean is an epic historical and romantic drama film that won five Oscars.

For all the music lovers out there, IWU's Faculty from the School of Music has some romantic tunes for you to listen to. Professor Sey Ahn, Director of Large Instrumental Ensembles, explains that "so much music is about love and inspired by love," which is why we should take this Valentine's season to celebrate music in its beautiful forms. Professor Ahn shares her love for orchestral music with recommendations of "super romantic and heartbreakingly beautiful" symphonies. Professor Ahn brings French composer Maurice Ravel's "Daphnis et Chloe No. 2" to our attention that depicts physical love.

Professor Ahn's second recommendation is Wagner's "Siegfried

Idyll", one of her personal favorites. It is a work that composer Wagner wrote for his wife Cosima for a surprise birthday/ Christmas gift. It was performed for her on Christmas morning in 1870. A quote that particularly caught Professor Ahn's eye was when Cosima describes her experience receiving the gift, Cosima writes, "As I awoke, my ear caught a sound, which swelled fuller and fuller; no longer could I imagine myself to be dreaming: music was sounding and such music! When it died away, Richard came into my room with the children and offered me the score of the symphonic birthday poem."

Assistant Professor of Music Education, Bradley Regier has some jazz recommendations for the jazz lovers out there. His first selection is Chet Baker's "My Funny Valentine" that he describes as the "true standard of jazz repertoire." Professor Regier points to the charm of the song that indicates that it is not your typical love song, it is "a song so good it's almost a cliché." In addition, Professor Regier includes one of his all-time favorites, a classic Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald song called "Cheek to Cheek," among the collection of Louis and Ella songs that could also fit this Valentine's season.

To add a heartwarming vocal and piano piece to the mix, Professor of Theory, Lucy Liu recommends Claudio Monteverdi's "Cruda Amarilli" and Schubert's

"Serenade" from Schwanengesang. Professor Liu describes these music pieces to be one's that evoke feelings of romantic love. Professor Liu describes the song as "nature in all its glory, sublimity, gentle quietness, harshness, and indifference not only set the scenes for on-goings in the human world but also participates as a persona in these narratives."

Head of the Music Theory, History, and Composition Area, Professor Adriana Ponce, includes some pieces that she thinks might captivate even those non-classical listeners. Her top two recommendations are Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto no. 2" and Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto no. 1." She describes these pieces as beautiful and powerful as well as accessible.

She illustrates that these pieces both illustrate musical ideals from the Romantic period, and that have "lyrical moments of incredible intimacy." Professor Ponce fell in love with both pieces written by Russian composers for writing expressive, even catchy melodies, in her early teens.

Professors from IWU's English department and School of Music have made a number of novel, film and music recommendations for all students to check out this Valentine's season. Even if you don't usually listen to classical music or read novels, be sure to give some of these recommendations a chance this holiday weekend.

Netflix's new mystery doesn't leave any lasting impressions



Image by: Liam Killian

SARAH BUCHMANN
STAFF WRITER

Netflix's new release, *The Woman in the House Across the Street from the Girl in the Window*, is a strange amalgamation of a psychological thriller and extremely dark comedy.

This mixed-bag of a show stars Kristen Bell as Anna, a divorced alcoholic mourning the death of her young daughter. When a handsome stranger Neil (Tom Riley) and his young daughter Emma (Samsara Yett) move in across the street, Anna is fascinated – and

borderline obsessed. And when she sees Neil's girlfriend Lisa (Shelley Hennig) has been murdered, Anna makes it her job to solve the case.

The convoluted story adds to the satirical style of the show. Anna's ex-husband is a forensic psychiatrist and FBI profiler, who took their daughter to work one day and accidentally left her in the room with a serial cannibal, ultimately leading to the little girl's death.

Anna also has a crippling fear of rain, Neil is a widower, Emma's former teacher died mysteriously, Lisa is not who she says she is and

the town police chief is completely inept. Almost every episode has an overly dramatic reveal or character development, only adding to the convoluted story. And just when you think you've solved the murder mystery, another piece to the puzzle gets added and throws a wrench in your current theory.

Just watching *The Woman in the House Across the Street from the Girl in the Window* is about as difficult as saying the title three times fast. Your mind is constantly trying to piece things together. Anna is an unreliable narrator as she mixes pills and alcohol, hallucinates, consistently doubts herself and lets her imagination get the best of her.

Some of the scenes only consist of Anna imagining what could have happened, which can be misleading if you're not fully paying attention. It's also hard to stay focused with this show.

The dialogue can be boring and often repetitive. At first, the deadpan delivery of lines catches you off guard, and then you get that it's a running gag. Every time Anna unveils a clue – even if it happens in the same 30 seconds – she says "Bingo" like a cheesy detective, throwing it back to Bell's days as Veronica Mars.

But it's these homages and inside jokes that make the show entertaining. For fans of psychological thrillers, there are references to more famous works like *The Girl on the Train* and *The Woman in the Window*.

Both *The Woman in the House Across the Street* and *The Woman in the Window*, a 2021 Netflix film starring Amy Adams, depict women named Anna who witness murders in the houses across the street, suffer from vivid hallucinations because of medications and are continuously gaslighted by everyone around them.

While the movie takes on a much more serious tone than the show, Bell stated in an interview with the Today Show: "There's so much formula to [psychological thrillers] that we thought it was about time that somebody poked fun at it." Bell also says that the ridiculously long title of the show itself is just another joke: "We're hoping that the title will tip you to the fact that we are making fun of the genre the entire time."

The acting itself is okay. Bell brings her all per usual, and says how her investment in the character is another part of what makes this show so sardonic. "I feel like I gave a pretty sincere performance

and then it ended up just being really comedic," Bell said in her interview with the Today Show.

Bell defends her performance, saying that everything else in the show is funny, but with the complex weaving of the plotlines and overarching theme of grief, it's difficult for humor to be done properly in this sphere.

Bell is practically the only good part of the show, because she has experience with gritty subjects with comedic spins. The Critics Consensus on Rotten Tomatoes says, "If this sendup of literary potboilers suffers from being as glacially paced as its own whopper of a title, at least Kristen Bell makes for delightfully deadpan company."

Personally, it's a forgettable show. It'll keep you entertained in the moment, but once it's no longer in your view, you'll disregard it completely.

It's worth the watch if you love Kristen Bell and want a psychological thriller with an ending that'll hit you like a Mack truck driven by a nine year old, but you really won't miss anything if you skip this one.



Opinion: Valentine's Day is highly overrated



THE GADFLY

The Gadfly is an pseudonym used by writers that wish to remain anonymous.

Every year, this dreaded holiday approaches in mid-February, making single people take a look at their love lives and feel deep disappointment. Witnessing roommates receive flower deliveries or helping close friends pick out an outfit for a romantic dinner with their significant other is utterly disheartening when you don't have someone to share this day with yourself.

Perhaps such people felt pure contentment with their single lives before Valentine's Day, but when you get in the routine of spending February 14 alone every year, one starts to wonder if there's any hope for finding a partner.

Although Valentine's Day has been around for centuries, (496 AD to be exact) the expectations for how it should be celebrated need to be minimized. Not only does this day make those that do not have a significant other feel oftentimes unloved in comparison to those that do, but it also encourages people to set too high of expectations for loved ones to make it perfect.

The pressure that Valentine's Day places on couples to make a dinner reservation at the most sought-out restaurant in Chicago or to gift their partner with a pricey Tiffany & Co. necklace is too much for some to bear.

The assumption that what is planned by one's partner for Valentine's day is a direct correlation to the amount of love their partner has for

them could not be any farther from the truth. But centuries of expectations that this exaggerated holiday has set have conditioned us to think this way.

Valentine's Day not only brings disappointment to many, but oftentimes sorrow for some. For those who are widows or widowers, the pain of losing a loved one around this time is even more prominent when spending a Valentine's Day alone.

For that matter, this day is painful for those who finally leave toxic relationships or have recently suffered a tough breakup.

Love songs sound like funeral marches and chocolate candies taste bitter. Mailboxes sit empty from lack of Valentine cards and Edible Arrangements special deliveries, but that certainly shouldn't be the case.

A possible solution to preventing disappointed lovers and heartbroken couples on Valentine's Day could be changing the overall culture and redirecting for whom it should be celebrated.

Oftentimes, parents use this opportunity to appreciate their children and visa versa. A fancy home-made meal served on fine china with the whole household can be just as meaningful as a one-on-one date between spouses. Sharing love letters between friends just showing appreciation can be immensely less strenuous than planning an elaborate date.

While significant others should still be celebrated, there are many more opportunities to do so than just February 14. Anniversary celebrations are an alternative to going all out for Valentine's Day.

They may even be preferred as they can be commemorated as often as a couple desires: monthly or biweekly if they're feeling especially generous.

Regardless if you have a significant other or not this upcoming Valentine's Day, I hope that you remember to make your single friends and family members feel just as loved as a partner would.

Opinion: IWU student employees deserve biweekly pay for their work



AUDREY ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

Illinois Wesleyan University prides itself on financially helping students, but there is one simple thing that could be implemented to better aid students that currently is not provided by the university.

Biweekly payment of earned wages to student workers instead of only once a month is crucial, and would be appreciated by student workers across IWU campus.

The majority of employers outside of the university nowadays pay their employees biweekly, and sometimes even more frequently due to the importance of a paycheck to the majority of people in our society. Some workplaces even provide up to half of earned wages available at any time to their workers because oftentimes, that is the necessity.

Illinois Wesleyan University is one of the few employers that still hold out to pay their workers once a month.

In our society, money is such an important staple to keep our lives running smoothly, especially for the busy and expensive life of a college student.

These financial obligations include paying for books, tuition, printing, rent, and food.

Not only do the majority of people live paycheck to paycheck, but the "broke college student" is a universal stereotype, so why are we of all people only paid once a month?

As student workers, we work hard to keep our campus running and to help the university operate as efficiently as possible, but this isn't provided in return in order to allow our lives to run smoothly.

As a student worker employed by the university myself, I know personally that it is very difficult to make ends meet when we are only compensated for our hard work once a month.

Bills, tuition payments, money for food, and rent are all things that don't just stop in the middle of the month, making the second half of the month for students immensely financially strenuous.

This often leads to the skipping of meals, or eating of unbalanced meals that may very well cause harmful effects on mental health, physical health, etc. which can subsequently have a negative effect on our academic achievements.

For a lot of student workers, on campus jobs are the only source of income that they receive to live off of.

Unexpected events tend to occur through the course of a col-

lege career, as part of the nature of growing up, putting many students in tough financial situations because they're waiting on earned compensation for their hard work.

This would prove to be a struggle for students without an identified need, but many student workers on campus must be approved for work-study.

This implies that a student has been identified to need significant financial help while they are attending college.

I think that a lot of financial stress that burdens student workers would be taken care of and attended to if Illinois Wesleyan University paid their deserving and hardworking student workers every two weeks instead of once a month.

Image by Jenna Maue



Want to write back?

The Argus welcomes letters to the editor in response to any piece published.
Letters must be a maximum of 500 words and must be received by 10:00 p.m. on Mondays.
Letters of a political nature have a maximum of 250 words
To submit a letter or learn more about the Argus,
contact argus@iwu.edu

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The Argus is published by Illinois Wesleyan University and printed by P&P Press in Peoria, Ill. Although the paper is partially funded by Student Senate, the university is not responsible for, nor in any way influences, the content of The Argus. Editorials are the majority opinion of the editorial board. Columns and letters are the opinion of the writer.

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Opinion: The US legal drinking age should be re-evaluated



GABBY REESE
STAFF WRITER

In Europe, the legal drinking age is 18 years old while in the United States it is 21 years old. Many people believe that the US law should be changed to also be 18 years old because that is when you become a legal adult in the US. So I beg the question: what's the harm in following Europe's lead?

Interestingly enough, individual states have different rules

regarding drinking. In Wisconsin, for example, you can be 18 and legally consume alcohol if you are with a parent or legal guardian. This varies compared to Illinois where you must be 21 or older to consume alcohol.

That all being said, there have been many debates over time to get the legal drinking age down to 18 instead of 21. I believe that these arguments should be seriously considered because most adults from 18 up to 20 are already consuming alcohol illegally.

According to a 2019 Center of Disease Control (CDC) study, 29 percent of high school students drank alcohol in the last 30 days. I am not at all saying that I condone underage drinking but I do believe the age restriction needs to be reevaluated, specifically in regards to college students.

Most students coming into college are now 18 or are about to turn 18, making them legal adults and fully responsible for their actions in the eyes of the law. Not only do they learn to live on their own, but they learn to take responsibility for

their actions as well as develop new communities for themselves to be supported and grow in.

Because you are on your own in college you have access to a vast supply of activities and different sources of entertainment that you did not have when you were living at home.

One of the cultural norms of university culture is drinking or to a more extreme extent, drugs. According to a 2021 USA Study, half of America's 5.4 million college students consume alcohol or abuse drugs at least once a month. Parents try to make sure they raise a well behaved individual in hopes that when they go out into the real world, they will act accordingly and not be tempted by the new things that the new atmosphere offers.

The problem is the assumption that a well-behaved kid won't drink alcohol. It's a complete contradiction, especially if a parent reflects on all the times that they have consumed alcohol in front of their child.

At any social event, both in casual and formal settings, there

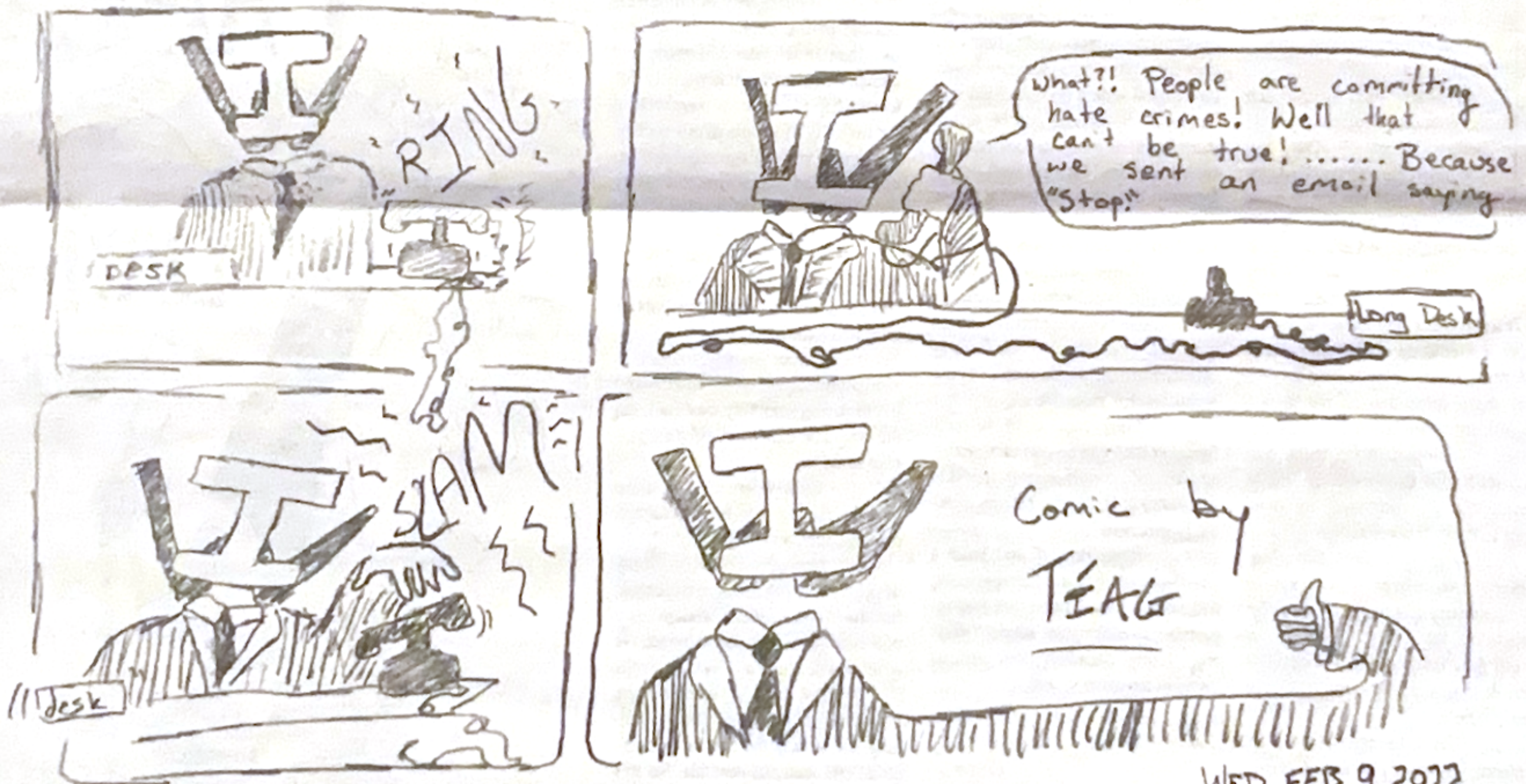
is a very high chance that drinking is involved. How can a parent expect their child, who now is a legal adult, to not want to have the same privileges as one too?

Now that is not to say that there aren't dangers to drinking, because there are many that school

systems can do better to educate their students on, but rather there are risks that are going to be taken either way. If young and legally fresh adults are going to be treated as adults in the eyes of the law, then they should also be granted the same privilege of consuming alcohol.



Image by Jenna Maue



WED, FEB. 9, 2022

Cartoon by Tiag

Opinions Writers Needed

Email mmorris5@iwu.edu with submissions



Men's volleyball falls flat against Fontbonne University



Photo: IWU Sports, Kodiak Creative

EMILY THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The Illinois Wesleyan men's volleyball team took the net against Fontbonne University in a weeknight game on Tuesday, February 8.

The Titans managed to snag a 25-20 victory in the first set before dropping the ball in the final three.

This loss drops the men's volleyball team's overall record

to 4-3 for the season.

Sophomore Michael Eastman paced the Titans with 15 kills and seven service aces.

Fellow sophomores KJ Johnson and Alec Mucha followed closely behind with six kills each.

Eastman opened up scoring for the Titans with a four-point streak including two kills and two service aces early into the first set.

Sophomore Julian Perez

added an additional kill to maintain the Titans' 6-4 lead.

The Griffins pulled back ahead due to two Titan errors before two kills by Mucha brought the Titans within one.

Another three-point streak for the Griffins was cut off by an attack error, allowing the Titans to fire back with three kills of their own.

Eastman contributed three straight kills, bringing the Titans to 19-17.

IWU and Fontbonne traded points back-and-forth and kept one another within one point, leading to a kill by Perez and service ace by Eastman. The Titans took the first set 25-20.

The second set started strong for the Griffins, who established an early three-point lead. Kills by Eastman and Perez brought the Titans within one point before another nail-biting point tradeoff.

Freshman Jake Kougan produced a kill that gave the Titans their first lead of the set at 8-7.

The race to victory resumed as the Griffins posted five more points, only to be met with four by the Titans.

Another Kougan kill tied up the teams 15-15.

From there, Fontbonne ran away with another five-point run to put them up 21-15. Eastman broke their streak with a kill, but the damage was already done. The Griffins closed out the set 25-19.

The third set of the evening started strong for the Titans, with freshman Vince DiCosola opening the scoring with a service ace. A Griffin attack error and a kill by Kougan kept

the Titans ahead 4-3.

The lead was short-lived before the same one-point trading saw the teams within one of each other.

Both the Griffins and the Titans crept up one point at a time until a Titan attack error and two Griffin kills gave Fontbonne a 19-16 advantage.

Despite four more Eastman kills, the Griffins made short work of the set, finishing off the set 25-22.

The final set of the evening proved much of the same, as Mucha opened scoring with a kill.

But the momentum was lost, leading to a quick deficit for the Titans.

Eastman, Mucha, Johnson and Perez each managed to send kills to the Griffins and close the gap within five.

The Griffins took over from there and, despite three of the final four points of the game went to the Titans, Fontbonne took the win for the set at 25-21.

The men's volleyball team begins a three-game spree on Thursday, February 10 with a trip to Aurora, Ill.

First serve against Aurora

Men's basketball keeps up hot streak against NPU and Millikin

EMILY THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The Illinois Wesleyan men's basketball team moved up to 10-2 in College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin play after games against North Park and Millikin this week.

The Titans took on North Park at home on Monday, February 7 and swept the Vikings away at 73-49.

Senior captain Matthew Lertz paced the Titans once again with 19 points, followed closely by sophomore Ryan Sroka with 14, fellow senior Cory Noe with 12, and junior Luke Yoder with eight.

Yoder also managed a game-high eight assists.

Also leading the game for the Titans was junior Cody Mitchell with 12 rebounds.

The first four minutes of the first half proved fruitless

for both teams offensively, consisting of back-and-forth turnovers between the Titans and the Vikings.

At 16 minutes left, Lertz managed to bank a layup and put two on the board.

Cody took the ball to the net next, adding another two for the Titans with a layup before the Vikings stole the ball back on a rebound and scored.

Lertz sank two free throws on a Viking foul, bringing the score to 8-2 with just under 14 minutes left.

Lertz, Noe and Yoder each produced successful three-pointers.

In addition, junior Lucas Heflen found the net on a jump shot, bringing the Titans up to 20-9 with nine minutes left to play.

The Titans rolled into halftime at 39-24 with no intentions of letting the lead slip.

North Park came out of halftime hot, adding 15 points and cutting the Titan advantage to only seven points.

Yoder began the Titan's second-half recovery with two successful free throws off of a Viking foul before Sroka added an additional three-pointer.

Lertz managed two more buckets from the charity stripe, bringing the Titans back up to 59-39.

The Titans kept up a 20-point lead for the final five minutes of the game, thanks to Noe's third three-pointer of the game and successful free throws by Sroka and freshman Harrison Wilmsen.

Freshman Hakim Williams contributed another layup at the two-minute mark, followed by two frees and a layup by sophomore Connor Heaton to close out the game at 73-49.

The Titans returned to the court on Wednesday, February

9 in Decatur, Ill. to duke it out with Millikin University and returned to Bloomington with a nail-biting 51-49 victory over the Big Blue.

The men's basketball team will next play Wheaton on Saturday, February 12 at 4:00 P.M. directly following the women's game in Shirk.



Photo: IWU Sports, Kodiak Creative

SPORTS WRITERS NEEDED

CONTACT: ETHOMP51@IWU.EDU

INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?

PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

WANT TO GET PAID FOR YOUR SUBMISSIONS?

SPORTS

*"Hail, Hail
The gang's all here
all out for Wesleyan"*

Women's basketball takes seventh consecutive CCIW win



Junior Hannah Smith cheers on her teammates as they continue to dominate the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin ranks.

Photo: Kodiak Creative

EMILY THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The Illinois Wesleyan women's basketball team has taken on Millikin University and North Park this week, resulting in one loss and one victory.

The Titans fell to the Big Blue on Monday, February 7 in a 67-56 non-conference defeat.

But, IWU recovered against the Vikings on Wednesday, February 9 with a massive 81-60 victory.

The win on Wednesday helped the Titans maintain a perfect College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin score of 7-0 for the Titans and put them in the No. 1 spot in the conference.

The first half of Monday's game started slow for the Titans as they fell behind by four only four minutes into the quarter.

Two free throws by senior Brooke Lansford brought the Titans back within two, followed by one from junior Katelyn Heller.

Heller went on to assist freshman Mallory Powers with a layup to close the point gap to one.

A three-pointer from the Big Blue allowed them to pull away again with only two minutes left in the first quarter.

Lansford produced one more point with a jumper before the end of the first quarter, but Millikin took over again in the second.

Two minutes into the second quarter, the Big Blue was already up 20-8.

Despite points by Lansford, Heller and hard defense by junior Kelly Carlson and senior Lauren Huber, Millikin maintained a double-digit lead until halftime.

The second half proved to

be much of the same for the Titans.

Senior Kaia Bowens sank a layup moments into the third quarter, but the Big Blue continued to widen the point gap.

By the end of the quarter, MU was up 51-31.

For a moment in the fourth quarter it seemed like the Titans could make a miraculous recovery. A layup by Huber, a jump shot and three-pointer by Lansford and another three by Powers brought the Titans within 12 with six minutes to spare.

With a minute left in the game, freshman Kate Palmer pulled out a three-pointer to push the Titans into a single-digit deficit.

Lansford provided the final point of the game with a successful jumper with seconds to spare, but the Big Blue had already pulled too far ahead.

The game closed out with a 67-56 loss for the Titans.

Even so, the Titans redeemed themselves at the Wednesday night conference game against North Park.

Where IWU fell behind on Monday they recovered, resulting in a 81-60 victory.

The first two minutes of the game proved fruitless for both teams before Powers opened the scoring with a successful two-point layup.

Bowen and Huber followed up with driving layups to bring the Titans up 6-2 with seven minutes left in the first quarter.

Senior Catie Eck contributed a three-pointer minutes later before she forced a turnover for the Titans.

The Titans and the Vikings traded off points for much of the second half, always staying within double-digits of one another.

A three-pointer by Lansford proved to be a turning point for the Titans, as they pulled ahead 31-24 shortly before halftime.

IWU continued to dominate the third and fourth quarters, including six collective three-pointers from Lansford, Eck and Palmer.

North Park managed to steal the last point of the game with a layup, but the point was futile.

The Titans left the court with an 80-61 victory and their seventh consecutive

The Illinois Wesleyan women's basketball team will return on Saturday, February 12 for a celebratory Senior Day and hopeful eighth-consecutive victory matchup with Wheaton University.

Tipoff is scheduled for 2:00 P.M. in Shirk Center.

TITAN TALLIES

50

7

16

Point gap between IWU and Eureka in the women's basketball team's victory this week.

Number of conference victories in a row from the undefeated Titans women's basketball team.

Number of athletic events happening next week. Students can view the entire Athletic schedule at iwusports.com.